



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF WATER MANAGEMENT
PERMITTING, ENFORCEMENT & REMEDIATION DIVISION
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Guidance Document

General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Non-Contact Cooling and Heat Pump Water

Arthur J. Rocque, Jr., Commissioner

Printed on recycled paper



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**



February 23, 1999

Dear Sir/Madam:

This package is designed to help you understand and comply with the DEP's *General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Non-Contact Cooling and Heat Pump Water*. Included in the package is an explanation of how to obtain a general permit and then consistently maintain compliance with the permit terms and conditions. The first section describes the types of facilities which tend to qualify, the second describes registration and authorization requirements, the third outlines effluent limitations and key treatment, control and monitoring requirements, and the final section describes what you need to do in the event of a permit violation. We hope that this information will allow you to better understand the general permit and thereby promote its proper use and application.

This package is part of our continuing effort to improve environmental compliance through increased awareness and understanding. If you have any questions on any aspect of the permit, need additional copies or have any suggestions on how we can provide other outreach or assistance, please call us at one of the numbers listed in this package. We hope that you will work with us to ensure the success of our general permitting program and other streamlining efforts intended to improve and simplify the regulatory process.

Thank you again for helping us keep Connecticut's waters clean.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL HARDER

Michael Harder, Director
Permitting, Enforcement and Remediation
Bureau of Water Management

Guidance Document General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Non-Contact Cooling and Heat Pump Water

Table of Contents

Why Do I Need a Permit?	1
Do I Qualify for a General Permit?	1
Registration Requirements	2
Key Permit Terms and Conditions	2
a. Treatment and Control Requirements	2
b. Effluent Limitations for Discharges to a Surface Water	2
c. Effluent Limitations for Discharges to a POTW (Sanitary Sewer)	2
d. Effluent Limitations for Discharges to Groundwater	2
e. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements for Discharges to a Surface Water	3
f. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements for Discharges to a POTW (Sanitary Sewer)	3
g. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements for Discharges to Groundwater	3
Permit Violations - What You Need To Do	3
DEP Contacts	3
Appendix A. Permitting, Enforcement & Remediation Division Phone Numbers for Information and Assistance	4
Appendix B. Quick Reference to Permit Assistance Resources	5
Attachment: General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Non-Contact Cooling Water & Heat Pump Water	

Guidance Document

General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Non-Contact Cooling and Heat Pump Water

Please understand that this package is only a summary of key information and requirements that apply to the *General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Non-Contact Cooling and Heat Pump Water*. In operating under the permit, it is your obligation to be familiar with all applicable requirements of the permit. You should refer to the permit and Connecticut General Statute (CGS) Section 22a-430 and Sections 22a-430-3, 4, 6 and 7 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies for a complete understanding of all requirements that apply to your facility. This guide is not a substitute for a thorough review of your permit and applicable laws. In the event there is a discrepancy between this document and your permit or the applicable statutes and regulations, the statutes, regulations and permit should be followed. Remember it is your responsibility to comply with your permit.

Why Do I Need a Permit?

Under CGS Section 22a-430, any person who wishes to discharge any type of wastewater to the waters of the state *i.e.*, surface waters, groundwaters and the POTW (sanitary sewer) must first obtain from the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) a wastewater discharge permit. To comply with this requirement, such persons may obtain either an *individual permit* or, as available, a *general permit*. An individual permit is issued to a specific facility at a specific site with specific terms and conditions to the permit and is typically applied to the most significant discharges warranting a detailed application and review. By contrast, general permits are issued to authorize groupings or categories of wastewaters which are minor in nature, thereby limiting DEP involvement and streamlining the application process. A general permit is available for the discharge of minor non-contact cooling and heat pump water. A Minor Non-Contact Cooling and Heat Pump Water means wastewater which has been used for cooling purposes, or generated from cooling processes, including but not limited to condensate from cooling systems, or for heating purposes and which does not come into direct contact with a product or process, except for water treatment chemicals in recirculation systems, and has a maximum daily flow of not more than 500,000 gallons per day. This definition does not include air compressor condensate or blowdown from boiler equipment.

Do I Qualify for a General Permit?

A facility is eligible to be authorized by the *General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Non-Contact Cooling and Heat Pump Water* if it meets the definition of Minor Non-Contact Cooling and Heat Pump Water specified in Section 2 of the general permit and the authorization requirements specified in Section 3 of the general permit. A person(s) or municipality that discharges minor non-contact cooling and heat pump water is strongly encouraged to review the authorization criteria and seek authorization by this general permit as appropriate.

Applicants should be aware that the general permit is the most expedient and least costly means of satisfying their obligation to obtain a wastewater discharge permit under state law. In addition, the general permit prescribes minimum monitoring requirements and effluent limitations which are intended to reflect the minor nature of the discharge. Therefore, any applicant who applies for an individual permit (a permit tailored towards a specific facility discharge versus a general permit) should anticipate permit terms and conditions which are at least as stringent as those contained in the general permit, as well as considerably higher fees.

Registrant Requirements

Any person who meets the requirements of Section 3 and Section 4, Table 1 or Table 2 of the general permit shall submit the necessary registration form and the applicable fee to the commissioner. Discharges of less than 5,000 gallons per day to the groundwater or to a POTW are automatically authorized without the need to register or pay permit fees under this general permit. Condensate discharges are automatically authorized by this general permit, excluding air compressor condensate, provided such discharge meets the requirements of Section 3 and conditions of subsection 5(a) of the permit. Heat pump waters generated from certain locations are automatically authorized by this general permit, provided such discharges meet certain requirements in Section 4, paragraph (4) and Table 2 of the general permit.

The effective dates of authorization under this general permit are as follows:

For a discharge that requires a registration in accordance with Section 4, Table 1 of the permit, the effective date of authorization is the date the commissioner receives a completed registration with respect to such activity.

For a discharge that does not require a registration, the effective date of authorization is the date the general permit becomes effective or the date the discharge is initiated, whichever is later. Such discharges must still comply with all other applicable conditions of the general permit.

Key Permit Terms and Conditions

a. Treatment and Control Requirements

All permittees shall comply with the authorization requirements specified in Section 3 and the control requirements specified in Section 5(a)(1) and (2) of the permit at all times.

b. Effluent Limitations for Discharges to a Surface Water

1. Chemical Parameters

There are effluent limitations for pH, salinity and temperature specified in subsection 5(b) of the permit. Monitoring only (no effluent limitation) is required for copper, lead, total residual chlorine, and zinc. The required limit of detection specified in subsection 5(e) Table 3 of the permit must be utilized for all chemical analysis.

2. Aquatic Toxicity

Any discharge to a surface water shall not contain acute toxicity and shall exhibit No Observable Acute Effect Level (NOAEL) as determined pursuant to the monitoring protocols specified in subsection 5(e) of the permit greater than or equal to 100% at all times.

c. Effluent Limitations for Discharges to a POTW (Sanitary Sewer)

There are effluent limitations and/or conditions for pH, temperature and appearance specified in subsection 5(c) of the permit. No effluent limitation or testing is required for aquatic toxicity.

d. Effluent Limitations for Discharges to Groundwater

There are effluent limitations and/or conditions for pH and appearance specified in subsection 5(d) of the permit. Monitoring only (no effluent limitation) is required for copper, lead, oil & grease, and zinc.

e. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements for Discharges to a Surface Water

The monitoring frequency for the parameters specified in subsection 5(e) Table 3 shall be conducted in accordance with subsection 5(e) Table 4 of the permit. The permittee shall utilize the test methods specified in 40 CFR 136 which are capable of achieving the limits of detection specified in subsection 5(e) Table 3 of the permit. The protocols specified in subsection 5(e)(2) of the permit shall be utilized for aquatic toxicity monitoring.

The permittee is required to submit the monitoring data once a year to the commissioner during the month of September in accordance with subsection 5(e)(6) of the permit.

f. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements for Discharges to a POTW (Sanitary Sewer)

The monitoring frequency for pH and temperature shall be conducted in accordance with subsection 5(f) Table 5 of the permit. The permittee shall use the test methods specified in 40 CFR 136 for chemical analyses.

g. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements for Discharges to Groundwater

The monitoring frequency for the parameters specified in Table 6 of the permit shall be conducted in accordance with subsection 5(g) Table 7 of the permit. The permittee shall use the test methods specified in 40 CFR 136 for chemical analyses.

Permit Violations - What You Need To Do

If any analytical results or monitoring data collected under the general permit indicate that a violation of an effluent limitation or any other condition of the general permit has occurred, the permittee must record and report the violation in accordance with the procedures specified in subsection 5(j)(1) (2) and (3) of the permit.

DEP Contacts

A list of DEP contacts is provided in Appendix A. For general information and assistance, please contact our Engineer of the Day at 860-424-3018 or the engineer most familiar with your facility. If you have special or pressing concerns, or if you need a seven-day, ten-year low (7Q10) number for a specific stream you may wish to contact our Water Permits Ombudsman, Bryan Sousa at 860-424-3848.

The U.S.G.S. office in Hartford may also be contacted at 860-240-3060 for a specific discharge stream 7Q10 number.

Appendix A: Permitting, Enforcement & Remediation Division Phone Numbers for Information and Assistance

24-Hour Emergency Response Unit: (860) 424-3338

If there is a Wastewater Treatment System Malfunction, Proposed Modification, Bypass or Spill, contact: (860) 424-3018

For General Information, Assistance and Engineer of the Day: (860) 424-3018

Name	Phone Number
Michael Harder, Director	(860) 424-3701
Richard Mason, Asst. Director	(860) 424-3804
Robert Kaliszewski, Ombudsman Bryan Sousa, Bureau Ombudsman	(860) 424-3003 (860) 424-3848
Enforcement: Michele DiNoia, Supervisor Mary Hogan Robert Lorentson, Jr. Stacy Pappano	(860) 424-3816 (860) 424-3282 (860) 424-3281 (860) 424-3362
Permitting: <i>Connecticut River Watershed</i> James Grier, Supervisor David Cherico Kima Kisilis Nisha Patel - Stormwater <i>Thames River & Central Coastal Watershed</i> Kenneth Major, Supervisor Melissa Blais Julie Kiritsis - Stormwater Laurene McEntire Olympia Rea <i>Housatonic River & Southwest Coastal Watershed</i> Gary Leavitt, Supervisor Kevin Barrett Steven Edwards Charles Nezianya Donna Seresin - Stormwater	(860) 424-3839 (860) 424-3837 (860) 424-3805 (860) 424-3840 (860) 424-3843 (860) 424-3834 (860) 424-3914 (860) 424-3836 (860) 424-3906 (860) 424-3841 (860) 424-3697 (860) 424-3838 (860) 424-3846 (860) 424-3267
Inspections: Colette Ready, Supervisor	(860) 424-3824
Program Support & Outreach: Bryan Sousa, Supervisor Mabel Chin Donald Gonyea Carol Ladue Karen Leonard Chris Stone	(860) 424-3848 (860) 424-3826 (860) 424-3827 (860) 424-3828 (860) 424-3842 (860) 424-3850
DMR Processing: Suzette Flecha, Supervisor	(860) 424-3809
Toxicity: Lee Dunbar Thomas Haze	(860) 424-3731 (860) 424-3734

Appendix B: Quick Reference to Permit Assistance Resources

Application forms, guidance and the *User's Guide to Environmental Permitting* are now available on the Internet.
<http://dep.state.ct.us>

For general information about permits, contact:

DEP Office of the Ombudsman/Permit Assistance Office	860-424-3003
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For specific DEP permit program information, contact:

Air Emissions - Air Permits Title V Helpline	860-424-4152 800-760-7036
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Water Discharges	860-424-3018
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Inland Water Resources - Diversion; Inland Wetlands and Watercourses; Water Quality Certifications; and Stream Channel Encroachment Lines Flood Management and Dams	860-424-3019 860-424-3706
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Office of Long Island Sound Programs - Coastal Programs	860-424-3034
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Waste Management - Solid Waste; and Asbestos Removal Hazardous Waste; Special Waste; and Waste Transportation Hazardous Waste Compliance Assistance Program (COMPASS) Marine Terminals Pesticides	860-424-3366 860-424-3372 860-424-4193 860-424-3298 860-424-3369
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For available resources, such as USGS topographical maps, etc., contact:

DEP Maps and Publications	860-424-3555
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Other Useful Numbers:

CT Small Business Assistance Program	860-424-3382
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DEP Environmental Equity Office	860-424-3044
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DEP Office of Pollution Prevention	860-424-3297
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EPA Region I Call Center	617-918-1111
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EPA RCRA, Superfund and EPCRA Hotline – http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hotline	800-424-9346
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division - Regulatory/Permits	800-343-4789
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Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA	860-487-4011
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